To: Daguillard, Robert[Daguillard.Robert@epa.gov]
From: Arleen Richards
Sent: Thur 8/20/2015 10:58:52 PM
Subject: Re: Media Inquiry

Hi Robert:

Can you tell me who the owners of the Red and Bonita mine are and how to contact them?

Thank you,
Arleen
Epoch Times

On 8/20/15 1:45 PM, Daguillard, Robert wrote:
> Please attribute to US EPA. Thanks, R.
>
> 1. Did the wastewater from the Red and Bonita mine get pushed into the Gold King Mine?
>
> We have assessed the Red and Bonita mine and to our knowledge, it is not hydraulically connected to the Gold King Mine.
>
> 2. What prompted the assessment - Was this a routine thing, consistent with the EPA's efforts to clean up other mines in the area?
>
> While the American Tunnel treatment plant operated, water quality in the Animas River improved. However, since 2005, water quality in the Animas River has not improved and, for at least 20 miles below the confluence with Cement Creek, the water quality has declined significantly. Impacts to aquatic life were also demonstrated by fish population surveys conducted by Colorado Parks and Wildlife, which found no fish in the Animas River below Cement Creek for approximately two miles and observed precipitous declines in fish populations as far as 20 miles downstream since 2005.
>
> Because of this declining water quality in the Animas River, in 2008, EPA's Superfund Site Assessment program began investigations in Upper Cement Creek focused on evaluating whether the Upper Cement Creek area would qualify for inclusion on the NPL. This evaluation indicated that the area would qualify, although after receiving additional community input, EPA postponed efforts to include the area on the National Priorities List. Since that time, EPA has continued and broadened its investigations of conditions at the site in order to understand the major sources of heavy metal contamination in the Upper Animas.
>
> 3. What was the deciding factor that led to the assessment on Aug. 5, 2015?
>
> The removal assessment at the Gold King Mine had been planned in conjunction with a plan to install a bulkhead (plug) at the nearby Red and Bonita Mine.
>
> 4. What is the plan going forward regarding the plethora of leaky mines in Silverton and throughout Colorado? Will Good Samaritans be deployed to continue the cleanup or will the EPA continue to lead the efforts?
>
> Once the investigation of the Gold King Mine is completed, EPA will issue guidance on future mine work.
>
> 5. A previous study indicates this mine was considered a high priority for clean up. When was the last time it was assessed? Were there any prior attempts to clean it?
>

> August 5, 2015 was our first attempt to assess the Gold King Mine and we have not been involved in any prior attempts to clean it up. There have been ongoing site assessments in that watershed mentioned above that have supported the goal to investigate Gold King Mine. The Colorado Department of Reclamation, Mining and Safety was monitoring the Gold King mine situation and ultimately conducted a limited action to stabilize the Gold King portal, secured the opening and channeled the flow in 2009.
>
> -----Original Message-----
> From: Arleen Richards [mailto:arleen.richards@epochtimes.com]
> Sent: Wednesday, August 19, 2015 1:50 PM
> To: Daguillard, Robert
> Subject: Re: Media Inquiry
>
> One more question:
>
> Did the wastewater from the Red and Bonita mine get pushed into the Gold King Mine?
>
> On 8/18/15 10:45 AM, Daguillard, Robert wrote:
>> OK, thanks.
>>
>> Would you do me a favor and go to www.epa.gov/goldkingmine? There's an FAQ in a link at the bottom of the page that I believe should answer at least some of your questions. Would you look at it and let me know which of your questions still need answering afterwards?
>>
>> Please advise.
>>
>> Thanks, R.
>>
>> -----Original Message-----
>> From: Arleen Richards [mailto:arleen.richards@epochtimes.com]
>> Sent: Tuesday, August 18, 2015 10:39 AM
>> To: Daguillard, Robert
>> Subject: Re: Media Inquiry
>>
>> Hi Robert:
>>
>> Tomorrow (Wednesday) at 5pm.
>>
>> Thank you,
>> Arleen
>>
>> On 8/18/15 10:31 AM, Daguillard, Robert wrote:
>>> Good morning. What's your deadline?
>>>
>>> Sent from my iPhone
>>>
>>>> On Aug 18, 2015, at 10:29 AM, Arleen Richards <arleen.richards@epochtimes.com> wrote:
>>>>
>>>> My name is Arleen Richards. I am a reporter with the Epoch Times
>>>> newspaper in New York City. I read in other media reports that the
>>>> EPA wanted to designate Silverton as a superfund site but residents
>>>> resisted, fearing it would negatively impact tourism.
>>>>
>>>> I am wondering if there was some legal intervention that resulted in
>>>> the attempt to clean up the mine and also whether or not the
>>>> superfund designation will be implemented? Has the state sought to
>>>> have the mine listed on the National Priority List? Can someone also

>>>> speak to the ongoing efforts to clean hundreds or even thousands of leaky mines in the state of Colorado?
>>>>
>>>> I look forward to hearing from you.
>>>>
>>>> Arleen Richards
>>>> Reporter
>>>> Epoch Times
>>>> www.theepochtimes.com
>>>> 609-468-4548
>>>>
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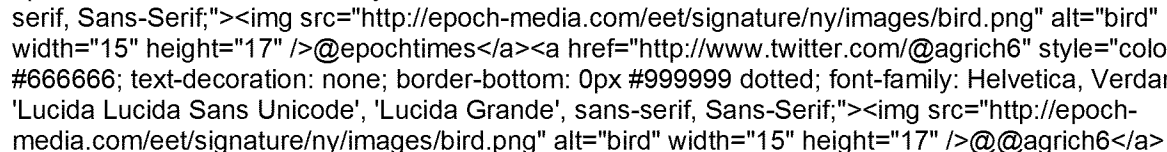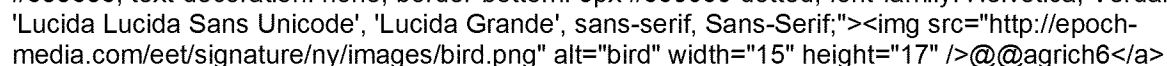>>>> message. If you are not the addressee indicated in this message (or
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